

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

Revised
Attachment

38

December 7, 2004

FROM: JAMES A. FELTEN, Director
Department of Public Health

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY CHALLENGE GRANT

RECOMMENDATION: Approve and authorize submission of a five-year grant application to the California Department of Health Services, in the amount of \$1,250,000 for the Community Challenge Grant (CCG) program for the period July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2010.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Approval of this item will allow the Department of Public Health to continue to receive State funding for projects that promote local community-based partnerships and activities to prevent teen pregnancy.

In 1997, the State of California implemented the Partnership for Responsible Parenting Initiative. As part of the Initiative, the State Department of Health Services awarded funds through the Office of Community Challenge Grants for projects that promote community-based partnerships and activities to reduce teen pregnancy. The Department of Public Health has received grant funds for these activities for the period 1997 through June 2005.

The specific purpose of the Community Challenge Grant program is to fund communities to implement single and multidimensional prevention strategies that are locally developed and that address the program goals, which are:

- Reduce teen and unintended pregnancies;
- Promote responsible parenting;
- Promote the role of males in the prevention of teen and unintended pregnancies;
- Increase the number of fathers who support the economic, social, and emotional well-being of their children;
- Promote postponing parenthood until one is able to provide for the physical, emotional, social, and economic well-being of a child;
- Increase community involvement in building healthy families through awareness of the effects of teen and unintended pregnancies;
- Promote and support the development of self-assured, future-oriented youth capable of navigating through adolescence to responsible adulthood and contributing positively to society.

The Department is applying for Funding Level II. Successful applicants for this funding are required to, address four or more target populations, support a Collaborative Partnership, implement a minimum of six strategies, include two or more subcontractors to support one or more Workplan interventions, participate in the statewide and local evaluations, and provide a local (non-government) fund match for the entire project funding request. Grants are for an initial five-year period, subject to State appropriation of funds. The grant provides funding of up to \$250,000 per fiscal year.

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The Department, as lead agency of the local Collaborative Partnership, will serve adolescents, families, and youth-serving personnel in selected geographic areas of the County. For maximum impact, the Department targets areas identified by the State as "hot spots," having both a high teen birth rate and concentration of live births. The Community Challenge Grant primarily serves youth in Community Day Schools in the High Desert, San Bernardino, Colton, Bloomington, Rialto and Highland, where there are high concentrations of youth at risk for unintended pregnancy. In addition, this target area was selected since these schools are not currently served by other intervention programs—Male Involvement Project (MIP), Information and Education (I & E), and Teen Smart—addressing the needs of the same or similar target populations. The Department proposes to reduce teen and unintended pregnancies through strategies that include:

- A State-approved education curriculum developed for the target population to teach human growth and development, abstinence education, sexual responsibility, and skills to help adolescents to make responsible decisions.
- Clinical Service referrals.
- Job skills development program at local hospitals and other businesses to increase knowledge about career opportunities;
- Enrollment of youth in a one-on-one adult-to youth mentoring program to provide positive interactions and support from an adult role model;
- Provide youth with opportunities for self-expression and improved self-concept through visual and performing arts residencies.
- Education and support for parents, significant adults and other care givers of adolescents to increase positive family interactions and accessing community resources.
- Provide workshops for youth-serving personnel including training and support for mentors, and professional development for artists and teachers.

Community collaboration is a requirement for the project. Applicants must demonstrate the development and support of a collaborative process for the planning, design, and implementation of the proposed project. Applicants must list collaborators and provide a description of their roles. To meet the grant requirements for collaborative partners and subcontracting of services in the community, the Department will subcontract for youth development activities with two collaborative partners: The City of San Bernardino Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department and the Arts Council for San Bernardino County. The City of San Bernardino Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department administers an adult-to-youth mentoring program enhanced by support activities for families, and the Arts Council for San Bernardino County contracts with local professional artists to provide residencies in visual and performing arts for youth at community schools.

The Community Challenge Grant requires funded programs to participate in statewide and local evaluation components. The statewide outcome evaluation will assess effectiveness of interventions throughout the state that utilize a curriculum-based strategy. The local evaluation is intended to improve program quality and effectiveness and provide ongoing information on achievement of program objectives. Department personnel will oversee the local evaluation activities with training and consultation provided by Dr. Susanne Montgomery, an evaluator and professor at the Loma Linda University School of Public Health. Dr. Montgomery is the lead evaluator for the Department's Community Challenge Grant Program since the program inception in 1997.

The Request for Applications (RFA) was released by the Office of Family Planning and received by the Department on October 29, 2004. An addendum to the RFA and questions and answers will be released on November 23, 2004. The Office of Family Planning must receive the RFA by December 17, 2004.

The grant requires a 20 percent in-kind match from non-governmental sources, which is being met through local agency commitments of volunteer and volunteer staff hours, and contributions of services and supplies to the program.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL BY OTHERS: This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (Charles Larkin, Deputy County Counsel, (909) 387-4177) on November 30, 2004. This item has also been reviewed by County Administrative Office (Beatriz Valdez, Administrative Analyst, (909) 388-0211) on November 24, 2004.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: Approval of submission of this application requires no County local cost. If funded, it will result in \$1,250,000 in grant revenue over a five-year period of July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2010. The Department will return to the Board to accept and budget funds awarded as a result of this application.

COST REDUCTION REVIEW: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and recommends approval as it will impose no additional cost to the County.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): All

PRESENTER: James A. Felten, Public Health Director, (909) 387-9146